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Implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/217 on the World Summit for Children

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report, prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 45/217 of 21 December 1990, provides information on plans prepared and actions taken by individual countries and the international community in response to the World Summit for Children as at 31 May 1992. The status of preparation of national programmes of action, as called for in the World Summit Plan of Action, is presented along with other major post-Summit developments. These actions are also discussed from a regional perspective, including that of the industrialized countries. The response of the United Nations system is highlighted, as requested by the resolution. Actions taken by non-governmental organizations are also reported on. The paper concludes with a discussion of the next steps that should be taken to assure that the promise of the World Summit is kept.

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I. BACKGROUND

1. The World Summit for Children, held at the United Nations in New York on 29 and 30 September 1990, was an unprecedented gathering of world leaders. Seventy-one Heads of State or Government, together with delegations from an additional 88 countries led by ministers and ambassadors, met to consider the situation of children around the world, to issue a World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children, 1/ and to endorse a detailed Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s 1/ with ambitious but achievable goals for the decade of the 1990s.

2. General Assembly resolution 45/217 of 21 December 1990 welcomed the adoption by the World Summit for Children of the World Declaration and the Plan of Action, urged all States and other members of the international community to work for the achievement of the goals endorsed therein, urged the donor countries especially to assist developing countries in achieving those goals and urged all relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations system, including their governing bodies, to provide support for the follow-up of the World Summit for Children. In the same resolution, the Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-first session, through the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions in 1992, on the implementation of the present resolution. The present report has been prepared in response to that request.

3. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/217, the Secretary-General wrote to the Heads of all relevant agencies - including the Bretton Woods institutions - urging them to take appropriate action in their areas of competence. Heads of these agencies have responded to the Secretary-General indicating how they planned to respond to the appeal of the world leaders, the General Assembly and the Secretary-General. In July 1991, the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) prepared and circulated to Member States document E/ICEF/1991/17 entitled Suggested Guidelines for the Preparation of the Progress Report on the Implementation of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s, adopted by the World Summit for Children. The present progress report is based largely on the feedback received from Member States as requested in the above documents, as well as reports received from United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and UNICEF field offices. Much of the information contained in this document is drawn from the Progress report on the follow-up to the World Summit for Children (E/ICEF/1992/12) prepared for the UNICEF Executive Board.

4. The major follow-up actions by Governments in 1991 were the preparation of national programmes of action (NPA), as called for in paragraph 34 (i) of the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children. Accordingly, section II of the present progress report revolves around a preliminary analysis of the NPAs and with regional developments. Section III reviews post-Summit developments in each of the major social sectors, and section IV deals with

the response of the United Nations system and the fifth with actions by non-governmental organizations. The report concludes with considerations of those actions that remain to be carried out.

II. FOLLOW-UP AT THE COUNTRY AND REGIONAL LEVELS

5. In terms of formal commitment at the national level, as of mid-May 1992 an additional 66 Heads of State and Government had joined the original 71 leaders who personally signed the World Summit Declaration and the Plan of Action. It is believed that no other document in the world bears the signature of so many world leaders (137 Heads of State and Government, plus 24 other senior ministers).

6. Compared to many international conferences, the follow-up to the World Summit for Children continues to be impressive, though uneven. Four factors seem to account for the conscientious follow-up: (a) the high level of political consciousness and commitment as reflected in the attendance of the largest number of world leaders ever gathered at the Summit, (b) the existence of specific, measurable and time-bound goals developed through extensive consultation among competent United Nations agencies and other technical bodies, (c) the widespread awareness of and support for the goals and strategies adopted by the World Summit among activist non-governmental organizations, the mass media and other civic groups, and (d) the active support of the United Nations system in the follow-up of the Summit, especially in the process of formulating NPAs.

A. National programmes of action

1. Status of preparation

7. Although only a relatively small number of countries had completed their NPAs by the end of 1991, a very large number of them had initiated the process and were in various stages of preparing them. The situation as at 10 June 1992 can be seen in table 1 below.

Table 1. Status of preparation of national programmes of action as at 10 June 1992 (number of countries)

	Finalized	In draft	Preparation under way	No action reported	Total
Asia and the Pacific	11	7	9	5	32
Latin America and the Caribbean	16	5	7	5	33
Middle East and North Africa	5	3	10	2	20
Sub-Saharan Africa	4	11	26	4	45
Industrialized countries	9	2	8	35	54
Total	45	28	60	51	184

8. The above data refer to NPAs prepared by central Governments. In addition to these, a number of provincial, municipal and other local governments, non-governmental organizations and civic groups have prepared, or are preparing, their own programmes of action in accordance with paragraph 34 of the World Summit Plan of Action. In some cases these have been prepared previous to, or in tandem with, the formulation of the national programme, while in others they are being prepared subsequently; for example, in Argentina each province, and in Venezuela each state, is preparing its own plan to achieve the goals of the summit by the year 2000. In Canada, each province has been invited by the federal government to prepare action plans: one province has already completed it and two are in the process of doing so.

The preparation process

9. As important as it is that there be an official document entitled "National Programme of Action", the process of preparing the NPA is equally vital. The high level of national attention being given to this process is perhaps one of its most distinguishing features. Responsibility for overall coordination has been retained by the office of the President or Prime Minister in a number of countries, such as Bolivia, China, Ecuador, Malaysia,

Niger, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Thailand and Uruguay, and by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in others, such as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Kenya. Ministries of Finance and Planning or their equivalent have been actively involved in NPA preparation in such countries as Bolivia, Chile, China, Colombia, Egypt, Ghana, the Philippines and the Solomon Islands. Indeed, government institutions responsible for budgetary allocations have been involved in NPA preparation in more than 50 developing countries.

10. Non-governmental organizations, religious groups, universities, the private sector, labour and civic groups, as well as international organizations, have been involved in the preparation of the NPA in over 50 developing countries. Extensive involvement of non-governmental organizations in the preparation process is also found in Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ghana, Guatemala, Malaysia, Morocco, Nepal, the Niger, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saint Lucia, the Solomon Islands, Thailand, the Sudan, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe. Non-governmental organizations are also involved in the NPA preparation process in industrialized countries, such as Australia. Children themselves were involved in preparing the NPA in Ecuador. The first-ever Caribbean Summit for Children, convened on 15 November 1991 in Barbados, gathered child delegates from 14 Caribbean countries who told their leaders about their goals and expectations for the future.

11. International agencies, both multilateral and bilateral, have also collaborated with governments and with one another in support of the NPA preparation process in many countries. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Organization of American States (OAS), the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), PREALC, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and a number of bilateral agencies are involved. UNDP was reported to be involved in at least 61 developing countries, WHO in 49, UNFPA in 36, UNESCO in 31, the World Bank in 28, and UNICEF in over 100 countries. Bilaterals, including nearly all the major donor countries, have been involved in NPA preparation in 25 developing countries.

2. Characteristics

12. As with all long-term plans, the NPAs need flexibility and a process for updating and review. Countries have taken different approaches to this reality. Some have produced plans which remain at the levels of goals, policy and strategies without going into detail regarding programmes or projects.

Others have entered into much greater programmatic detail. In either case, the majority of NPAs for which there is sufficient information make it clear that they are subject to improvement and revision as experience develops over the course of the decade.

13. For those NPAs that have remained at the level of policy and strategy, one would expect, of course, an eventual move to the level of programmes and projects. This could occur in various ways. Subsequent versions of the NPA itself may be produced which delve into greater detail for all sectors. Or each sector or sectoral grouping may be encouraged to develop its own programmes and projects according to the sector's own dynamism. In larger countries especially an NPA which sets broad policy and strategy may be followed by progressively more detailed programmes on the part of individual states or provinces and so on down to district and local levels. In China, for instance, it is planned to have a national NPA, sectoral NPAs by each relevant ministry and NPAs for each province. Because of the diversity of country situations there is no single blueprint for NPAs. What is important is that these programmes of action be understood as a living process, rather than a once-for-all document and, indeed, the evidence available thus far suggests that this is, by and large, how they are being conceived.

3. Interaction with national policy and development planning

14. It is logical that a national programme of action for children with measurable goals for the period of a decade should have a strong relationship with the process of national development planning wherever such a process is formally carried out. In 86 of the 109 developing countries for which information was available on this subject at the time of writing, the goals and strategies of the NPA are, or are becoming, part of the overall development plan or development strategy document.

15. In setting forth the goals for children and development in the 1990s, the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children stated in paragraph 6 that "these goals will first need to be adapted to the specific realities of each country in terms of phasing, priorities, standards and availability of resources." 1/ Most countries have adapted, or are in the process of adapting, the goals to correspond more closely to national conditions.

16. In many cases, this has resulted in goals that are more ambitious than those of the World Summit. For example, greater reductions than those proposed globally for the infant mortality rate/children under five mortality rate for the year 2000 are programmed by Malaysia, Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, Tunisia and Venezuela. And higher goals for basic education are targeted by Zimbabwe, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Maldives, Ecuador, Mexico and Uruguay.

17. As may be expected, these are generally higher-income developing countries but the list of more ambitious goals also includes a number of lower-income countries, such as Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, which have already

made significant advances in some sectors and have no intention of remaining with the status quo. On the other hand, some countries, generally those in the least developed category, have extended targets for reaching the global goals enunciated by the World Summit beyond the year 2000. Some of these countries, while striving to reach the goals of the World Summit for Children in a phased manner, have adapted the standards for service coverage by, for example, defining access to clean water supply in terms of a greater distance than that used by other countries.

4. Resource requirements

18. At some point in the planning process, it is normal to expect that there will be an effort to estimate the costs of achieving the objectives of the plan. However, those countries that prepare national development plans generally do so for a period shorter than 10 years, and are more accustomed, if they estimate costs for the social sectors at all, to do so in terms of the inputs required to maintain and extend the types of social and human services currently being provided, rather than unit costs of achieving impact objectives such as specific reductions in mortality rates. A number of countries also have more experience in estimating costs for some sectors than for others. It is no surprise, then, that the NPAs so far received tend, as a group, to be incomplete or weak in the area of estimating the costs of achieving the goals that they have established. There are, however, some notable exceptions, such as Burkina Faso, the Central American countries, Ecuador, Nepal, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Sri Lanka, Venezuela and Viet Nam.

19. An analysis of the 18 NPAs received by the first week of March 1992, which includes either complete or partial cost estimates, shows a considerable variation in the size of the estimates relative to gross domestic product (GDP). Most, however, fall within a range of 1 to 8 per cent of GDP and the mean of these 18 estimates is 3 per cent of GDP. Considering that the 1991 UNDP Human Development Report recommends a figure of 5 per cent for the "human expenditure ratio", that is, the percentage of national income devoted to human priority concerns, one can appreciate that these estimates are, by and large, not unrealistic. Achieving the education goals has the highest estimated cost - 37 per cent of the estimated total - while water/sanitation averages 22 per cent and health 18 per cent.

5. Resource mobilization

Reallocation of domestic budgets

20. Paragraph 34 (iii) of the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children urges each country "to re-examine in the context of its particular national situation, its current national budget ... to ensure that programmes aimed at the achievement of goals for the survival, protection and development of children will have a priority when resources are allocated." 1/

21. Thirty-one developing countries, at the time the present document was prepared, have fulfilled that commitment in terms of making a serious effort at reallocating resources primarily towards basic education and primary health care, and giving next priority to water/sanitation and nutrition programmes. It is too soon to obtain a picture of the orders of magnitude of resource shifts represented by these reallocations, but some examples may shed light on what is taking place or is planned to occur.

22. NPA preparation has already contributed to increased government budgets for health and education in El Salvador and the Philippines. El Salvador's announced increase in its education and health budgets by 20 per cent and 25 per cent, respectively, can be seen as a concrete example of the "peace dividend" being used in favour of children. Response to the World Summit and the process of preparing its NPA have triggered a 30 per cent increase in Egypt's social sector budget.

23. Some NPAs are proposing innovative ways of financing the achievement of their goals for children. These include measures to modernize and increase efficiency in the public sector, improve tax collection, new forms of taxation and more efficient collection of existing taxes, user charges and other cost recovery mechanisms, debt swaps for social investment, and greater involvement of the private sector.

The challenge for international cooperation

24. While a substantial part of the cost of meeting the goals for children in developing countries will have to be met by the countries themselves, some additional support from the international community will also be necessary. This can be provided in two ways.

25. First, and most importantly, by providing developing countries with a favourable policy environment, with opportunities and with support to develop themselves quickly and to grow rapidly. Financing programmes to meet the goals for children in a fast growing economy is much easier to accomplish than in a stagnating economy. The signers of the World Summit Declaration committed themselves to work for a global attack on poverty, to promote growth and development in all States, through national action and international cooperation, recognizing that this "calls for transfers of appropriate additional resources to developing countries as well as improved terms of trade, further trade liberalization and measures for debt relief".

26. In this regard, follow-up to the World Summit for Children, nearly two years after that declaration, has so far not been very substantial. The economic recession in the industrialized countries, together with the upheaval in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, have had a depressing effect on possibilities for more rapid growth in developing countries, and hopes for improved terms of trade for developing countries remain mired in the stalled negotiations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). While it must be said that the debt crisis as a whole has still not been resolved, various initiatives in the direction of

debt alleviation have been taken in a number of countries that might be interpreted as signs that some more general resolution of the situation is in the offing. In the more specific case of debt relief for children, the Netherlands, for example, has been involved in an initiative involving debt swaps in Ecuador, Honduras and Jamaica. In addition, a number of commercial banks have been supporting debt buy-back mechanisms.

Restructuring of official development assistance

27. The second way for the international community to support the achievement of the goals for children in developing countries is to provide more resources specifically for programmes which have these goals as their objective. This does not necessarily imply a major increase in overall official development assistance (ODA), although such an increase, as it is one of the goals of the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, is much to be desired. It does, however, signify that a larger portion of aid, bilateral or multilateral, should be devoted to human development in general and that within the "social" sectors, such as health, education, water supply and sanitation, a larger percentage should be devoted to primary health care, basic education and low cost water and sanitation. The Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children urged donor countries to examine their development assistance budgets "to ensure that programmes aimed at the achievement of goals for the survival, protection and development of children will have priority when resources are allocated." 2/ There are signs that such reallocations are under consideration, as indicated in the sections on the NPAs of industrialized countries below, but the available information is still insufficient to draw substantative conclusions on this point.

28. One positive development in this sphere is the evaluation of aid flows taking place within the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), with the cooperation of UNDP and UNICEF. It has been difficult to determine in the past the level and trends of support to human development priorities, including programmes for the well-being of children and women because of the way in which ODA has been reported. The 1992 Human Development Report reported that the proportion of ODA allocated to priority areas, such as primary health care, basic education, family planning, safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and nutrition is only about 10 per cent of multilateral ODA and 6.5 per cent of bilateral ODA (see tables 2 and 3 below). UNDP recognizes that the OECD database used as a basis for this calculation is "notably incomplete". There is an urgent need to standardize such reporting and make it more specific, thus enabling countries and the international community to know what proportion of aid is contributing directly to the achievement of the goals for children.

Table 2. Human priorities in bilateral aid*

Country	Percentage of ODA to social sectors 1988/89	Percentage of social sector ODA to human priorities* 1988/89	Percentage of ODA for human priorities* 1988/89
Norway	27.2	72.3	19.7
Switzerland	35.8	50.6	18.1
Finland	38.0	41.4	15.7
Canada	23.8	45.9	10.9
Denmark	19.2	55.4	10.6
Netherlands	21.1	44.5	9.4
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	13.4	65.8	8.8
Italy	18.0	47.3	8.5
United States of America	16.4	50.4	8.3
Austria	13.4	60.6	8.1
Sweden	17.0	41.5	7.1
France	11.0	35.9	4.0
Japan	10.7	25.5	2.7
Australia	6.4	31.4	2.0
Germany	8.9	21.4	1.9
Total	14.8	43.7	6.5

* Human priorities include basic education, primary health care, safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, family planning and nutrition programmes.

Table 3. Human priorities in multilateral aid*

Country	Percentage of ODA to social sectors 1988/89	Percentage of social sector ODA to human priorities* 1988/89	Percentage of ODA for human priorities* 1988/89
UNICEF	91.7	85.9	78.8
IFAD	16.8	100.0	16.8
IDB (including special)	27.8	54.4	15.2
ASDB (including special)	17.5	64.5	11.3
IBRD/IDA	17.5	47.7	8.3
AFDB/African Development Fund	16.6	32.4	5.4
Total	19.1	49.1	9.9

Source: UNDP, Human Development Report: 1992 (p. 43).

* Human priorities include basic education, primary health care, safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, family planning and nutrition programmes.

6. Monitoring

29. In paragraph 34 (vi) of the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children, it is stated that "each country should establish appropriate mechanisms for the regular and timely collection, analysis and publication of data required to monitor relevant social indicators relating to the well-being of children". This injunction is being taken seriously as countries prepare their NPAs.

30. One of the first steps in this direction is for the NPA to determine its 1990 baseline for each of the decade goals. Many NPAs contain tables which lay out in parallel columns the relevant indicators for each of the goals, the current status as regards each indicator, the source of information and the target for the year 2000. Where there are gaps in current data, these are indicated and measures to fill the gaps are identified. In some cases, such as those of Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Maldives, Morocco, Nicaragua, Suriname and Tunisia, special surveys and situation analyses are

being carried out to help establish baseline data for the NPA. In others, such as Bolivia, Botswana and Mozambique, a forthcoming national census is being strengthened so as to provide data relevant to the NPA baseline.

31. At the international level a number of steps have been taken to assist countries in their task of monitoring progress towards their decade goals for children, as well as to fulfil the requirement of paragraph 35 (iv) of the World Summit Plan of Action relevant to monitoring the Plan's implementation at the global level. The Inter-Agency Working Group on Social Monitoring, involving UNDP, UNFPA, the United Nations Statistical Office and UNICEF, organized monitoring missions to Ecuador, Mexico, Kenya, Mali and the Philippines in order to assess the situation as regards social monitoring and to make recommendations for future action at the national and international levels. Consultations between UNICEF and WHO have been held with a view towards building consensus on indicators for measuring progress towards the health-related goals of the World Summit. A joint WHO/UNICEF project has been launched for systematic monitoring of the water and sanitation sectors during the 1990s. Discussions are also being held among international agencies dealing with education on appropriate indicators for monitoring the education goals, especially indicators for measuring educational achievement.

7. Research

32. It was noted in paragraph 34 (vii) of the Plan of Action that "progress towards the goals endorsed in the Summit Declaration and Plan of Action could be further accelerated, ... through further research and development", and the document goes on to request Governments, industry and academic institutions to increase their efforts in both basic and operational research. While, except for monitoring and evaluation, Governments have not so far reported very many specific research activities in the context of follow-up to the World Summit for Children, it may be noted that the Children's Vaccine Initiative, a joint effort of WHO, UNICEF and other agencies to accelerate the application of current science to make new and improved vaccines, has been making steady progress and that efforts to develop vaccines against malaria and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) have been accelerated. A few developing countries report that research is expected to be one of the areas to be considered in the restructuring of national budgets and aid allocations. Among industrialized countries, Finland's NPA is noteworthy for including the topic of research.

B. Regional developments

33. Table 1 shows that countries in all regions of the world have been active in response to the challenges and commitments of the World Summit for Children. These actions at country level have been conditioned by situations that characterize certain regions and have been supported by various actions at the regional level, so that a brief overview of World Summit follow-up by region is in order.

1. Asia

34. At the political level, support for the follow-up of the World Summit for Children is particularly strong in South Asia. Soon after the World Summit, the leaders of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), meeting at Malé in November 1990, endorsed the goals of the World Summit and initiated a regional process in support of the NPAs. Recognizing that change in the situation of the girl child would be key to progress towards the goals, they proclaimed the 1990s as the SAARC Decade of the Girl Child. At their Summit meeting in Colombo in December 1991, the SAARC leaders endorsed a decade programme of action for the girl child and underlined the paramount importance for South Asia of reaching the goal of basic education for all. The second SAARC Conference on the South Asian Child will be held at Colombo in mid-September 1992 and its report submitted to the seventh SAARC Summit at Dacca in late November 1992.

35. Ministerial-level consultations on NPAs, held at Bangkok in July 1991, offered an opportunity for exchange of ideas and experiences among countries of Asia and the Pacific as they drew up their national programmes of action.

36. Inter-agency collaboration for the joint monitoring of the decade goals is the subject of a comprehensive project in the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The education goals are of particular concern to Asia and have been the subject of numerous regional meetings involving the Asian Development Bank, ESCAP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP and the World Bank, together with senior education ministry officials from all countries concerned.

2. Latin America and the Caribbean

37. In terms of preparation of the national programmes of action, Latin America and the Caribbean had the best record of all regions in 1991 in the follow-up of the World Summit for Children. Virtually all countries of Central and South America and the larger Caribbean countries have finalized their NPAs. One reason for this achievement is the high level of political commitment for the follow-up of the World Summit and the implementation of NPAs in the region. Strong support for the preparation of NPAs was voiced in the Guadalajara Declaration of the First Ibero-American Summit meeting, in the Declaration of the Group of Rio Presidents' meeting, and in statements supportive of the goals for children in the 1990s endorsed by the Andean and Caribbean parliaments.

38. The Heads of State and Government of the seven countries of Central America, Panama and Belize launched their NPAs at Tegucigalpa, Honduras, in December 1991, at a special summit meeting specifically devoted to human development, children and youth. Besides committing themselves to implementing fully their respective NPAs, the leaders also agreed to develop a regional programme for human development to help each other and to review progress annually at the summit level.

39. There have also been excellent examples of inter-agency collaboration among United Nations agencies and other multilateral institutions in support of NPAs in the region. A joint agreement has been signed by directors of PAHO/WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and USAID to support the implementation and monitoring of the mother and child health and nutrition components of the NPAs in the region. Directors for maternal and child health in the five agencies met in Brazil in April 1992 to follow up on this agreement. ECLAC is closely associated with UNICEF and other United Nations agencies in supporting national statistical institutions to help develop the necessary household surveys and monitoring mechanisms. A meeting on this subject was held at Santiago, Chile, in March 1992. PAHO/WHO is leading the effort to help relevant national institutions to develop their capacity for monitoring progress in achieving the water and sanitation goals.

3. Middle East and North Africa

40. The Gulf War initially slowed down the follow-up to the World Summit for Children as a priority concern in the Middle East, but since late 1991 it has in fact served as a catalyst for national and regional institutions to reexamine national priorities and actions as they affect the well-being of children and women. Follow-up action started in earnest in the Gulf countries themselves in December 1991 with a subregional review of progress and priorities under the aegis of the Gulf Council of Ministers.

41. The Sixth Summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), held in December 1991, called upon its member States to ensure follow-up to the World Summit for Children and consider ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Summit mandated the preparation of an Islamic Plan of Action for follow up to the World Summit. The League of Arab States has decided to hold a high-level meeting for children in the Arab region in November 1992 to promote ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and follow-up to the World Summit, to identify certain goals that would become regional priorities and to consider the question of resources for attaining the goals.

4. Sub-Saharan Africa

42. The severe economic crisis facing Africa since the 1980s has continued into the early 1990s, making the challenge of implementing the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children even greater for African countries. Political change, civil strife and/or drought have limited the national capacity to address long-term development issues in a number of African countries. Notwithstanding some delays in the completion of NPAs, commitment for the follow-up of the World Summit remains high throughout the region. At the twenty-seventh Summit Meeting of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), held at Abuja, Nigeria, in June 1991, African leaders reaffirmed their commitment to implement the Declaration and Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children. In a resolution on implementing the Decade of the African Child, this largest-ever gathering of

African leaders, called for early completion of NPAs. The OAU also decided to convene an international conference for assistance to Africa's children in November 1992, in view of the continent's prolonged economic and social crisis and, hence, its especially urgent need for additional assistance for programmes to achieve the goals of the World Summit.

43. On numerous occasions, African leaders have reaffirmed their strong interest in and commitment to the follow-up of the World Summit for Children. Leaders from Africa referred repeatedly to the priority they attached to improving the situation of African children in their statements at the Commonwealth Head of State and Government Summit held at Harare, Zimbabwe, in October 1991, the Francophone Summit held in Paris, France, in November 1991 and the Islamic Summit Conference held at Dakar, Senegal, in December 1991. The declarations and statements emanating from each of these high-level meetings called upon each country and the international community to "keep the promise" of the World Summit for Children.

5. Industrialized countries

44. Industrialized nations have a two-fold role to play in the follow-up of the World Summit for Children: (a) to prepare a national programme of action aimed at pursuing the goals and strategies of the Summit as they apply to children in these countries; and (b) to review their ODA to ensure that programmes aimed at achieving the goals for the survival, protection and development of children in developing countries are accorded a high priority in the allocation of ODA. In many industrialized countries, the speedy ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child has also been seen as a specific response to the World Summit for Children.

45. As of mid-May 1992, seven industrialized countries: Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, Sweden, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, had, together with the Holy See, completed their NPAs. Twelve other countries had preparation underway, including Australia, Belgium, the Netherlands and the United States of America, which were reported to be in final stages of completion. The remaining group of industrial countries which, according to available information, reported no action underway, consists largely of countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, which are all in the midst of difficult transition; although there are a few European countries whose Heads of State and Government did actually attend the World Summit, or which signed the Summit Declaration subsequently, but have still not yet initiated preparation of their NPA.

46. The completed NPAs, as well as those in preparation for which sufficient information is available, all deal with both domestic action and international cooperation. On the domestic front, most industrialized countries point to the advances already made on behalf of children in their societies, the fact that many of the World Summit goals have already been achieved as regards the great majority of their children, and the need to preserve and consolidate these

gains. Nevertheless, they acknowledge that there are pockets of less advantaged children in their midst and that there is still room for improvement in many respects. The portions of industrialized countries' NPAs devoted to international cooperation typically include a review of current ODA and the priorities according to which it is allocated.

47. It is a matter of concern that some industrialized countries - not all - appear to have taken their commitments to the World Summit more lightly than their developing country counterparts, providing reports on current domestic programmes for children and descriptions of current aid programmes, rather than preparing genuine programmes of action for the future. It is to be desired that any future review and revision of the current documents would make them more forward-looking with adequate provision to facilitate monitoring of each country's follow-up of its Summit commitments.

48. At the time of the World Summit for Children, UNICEF had estimated that approximately US$ 20 billion in additional funding would be needed annually for developing countries to implement the goals endorsed by the Summit. Of that amount, some two-thirds would have to be provided by the developing countries themselves, through realignment of their domestic budgets and priorities, with the remaining one-third, or 6 to 7 billion dollars needed in additional external aid. Of this, the proportion needed by individual countries would vary from less than a quarter in East Asia, Latin America and the Middle East to between one-third and a half in South Asia and up to two-thirds in the least developed countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. In total, the additional aid requirement is estimated at about 10 to 15 per cent of the current ODA budgets, and could come from a combination of net increase in aid and from shifting ODA from other sectors. Allocation of a modest amount of the peace dividend and debt relief measures were identified as other possible sources of funding.

49. Figures from table 4 below indicate that there is considerable potential for securing much of the additional external support required to reach the goals for children and development in the 1990s through restructuring ODA allocation in favour of human development priorities, especially by those donors whose current ODA allocation is below the combined country average of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of OECD. Donors can contribute to this through a combination of allocating a higher proportion of their bilateral ODA to human priorities and/or through increased contribution to those multilateral development agencies and non-governmental organizations which give high priority to human development concerns. Indeed several donors provide substantial support to human priorities through multilateral agencies which, when combined with their bilateral aid, adds up to a much higher level of support than that indicated in table 4.

Table 4: Bilateral ODA for human priorities*

Country	Total ODA 1990 ($US millions)	Bilateral ODA 1989 ($US millions)	Estimated bilateral ODA for human priorities ($US millions)	Percentage of bilateral ODA for human priorities
United States of America	10 166	6 827	570	8.3
France	6 277	6 135	250	4.0
Italy	3 395	2 189	190	8.5
Japan	9 054	6 779	180	2.7
Canada	2 470	1 581	170	10.9
Netherlands	2 580	1 511	140	9.4
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2 639	1 463	130	8.8
Norway	1 207	555	110	19.7
Sweden	2 007	1 275	90	7.1
Switzerland	750	423	80	18.1
Finland	846	435	70	15.7
Germany	6 320	3 175	60	1.9
Denmark	1 171	522	60	10.6
Austria	389	201	20	8.1
Australia	955	706	10	2.0
TOTAL	50 226	34 229	2 130	6.5

Source: Based on UNDP Human Development Report, 1992, table 3.14, and OECD Development Cooperation Report, 1991.

* Human priorities include basic education, primary health care, safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, family planning and nutrition programmes.

III. DEVELOPMENTS IN MAJOR SECTORS

50. In addition to the preparation of NPAs and other national and international activities that are direct consequences of the World Summit for Children, it is important to mention a series of sectoral developments, inspired in whole or in part by the World Summit, or synergistically related to it, which contribute to the pursuit of the Summit's goals and objectives.

A. The Convention on the Rights of the Child

51. Foremost among these is the unprecedented ratification, by 117 countries as of early May 1992, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (see General

Assembly resolution 44/25, annex). The NPAs provide an operational framework for applying many of the principles of the Convention and they define specific measurable objectives that will help countries to assess their progress towards achieving the standards set by the Convention. The implementation of NPAs, therefore, supports the longer-term objective of full implementation of the principles of the Convention, and gives meaning to the overall purpose of the World Summit for Children - "to give every child a better future".

B. Basic education and literacy

52. The World Summit for Children reaffirmed the goals of the Jomtien World Conference on Education for All, and the follow-up activities to achieve their common goals are the same. National roundtables on education policy responding to the Jomtien challenge were held in 22 countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, three Middle-Eastern and 12 Asian countries, usually with the cooperation of UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP and the World Bank. Similar meetings were held in 10 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Key priorities in basic education were defined for Africa at the Sixth Conference of Ministers of Education (Dakar, July 1991); for Asia by the ESCAP programme of action; and for Latin America and the Caribbean by the Education Ministers' meeting at Quito (April 1991). National education plans to achieve the "education for all" goals have been prepared by Algeria, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Djibouti, the Gambia, Ghana, India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Nepal, the Niger, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia and Uganda. Most of these countries also increased their budgetary allocation for primary education. Inter-agency cooperation was greatly strengthened through meetings and working groups among the heads of Jomtien sponsoring agencies, through the UNESCO/UNICEF Joint Committee on Education, and through exchanges of information among international and bilateral agencies.

C. Health

53. The health goals of the World Summit for Children are goals already adopted by the World Health Assembly (WHA) and are necessary conditions for reaching the Alma Ata objective of "Health for All by the Year 2000". Very many people and organizations have been working for the achievement of those goals since long before the World Summit, but the latter has helped to give new impetus and precision to this effort. Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI) are now recognized as the leading cause of child deaths in developing countries, and one of the supporting health goals of the World Summit is the reduction by one-third in the deaths due to ARI in children under five years. In December 1991 some 400 leading international public health officials from 60 countries, including 20 health ministers, met in Washington, D.C. and agreed on a 6-point programme to achieve this goal. Collaborative action to deal with the AIDS crisis has also accelerated since the World Summit. With WHO as the lead agency, countries, bilateral donors, UNICEF and other international organizations have increased funding, training and social mobilization to deal with this threat to children, families and nations.

D. Nutrition

54. Virtual elimination of iodine deficiency disorders and vitamin A deficiency and the reduction of iron deficiency anaemia in women by one third of 1990 levels are three of the supporting goals of the World Summit for Children in the field of nutrition. The international policy Conference on Ending Hidden Hunger, held at Montreal in October 1991, at which representatives of more than 50 countries together with scientists and representatives of international agencies deliberated, was a direct follow-up action to the World Summit in this field. Empowerment of all women to breast-feed their children exclusively for four to six months and to continue breast-feeding, with complementary food, for up to two years or longer is another of the supporting goals of the World Summit. In 1991, WHO and UNICEF launched the "Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative" aimed at rewarding with the baby-friendly certification those maternity services which fulfil the "10 steps to successful breast-feeding" proposed in the WHO-UNICEF Joint Statement on Protecting, Promoting and Supporting Breast-feeding. Infant formula manufacturers have agreed to support the initiative by ending distribution of free or subsidized formula to hospitals and maternity facilities by the end of 1992.

E. Water and sanitation

55. The goal of the World Summit for Children of universal access to safe drinking water and to sanitary means of excreta disposal was also the goal of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade for the period 1981-1990. Although solid progress was made during that decade, the goal was not achieved. It has been re-targeted for the year 2000 through various forums, including the World Summit. A Water and Sanitation Collaborative Council, to provide a global mechanism for discussing and advancing the achievement of this goal, was inaugurated at Oslo during 1991. In January 1992 the International Conference on Water and the Environment, which was held in Ireland, adopted guiding principles that can positively affect the achievement of the water and sanitation goal.

F. Children in especially difficult circumstances

56. The subject of children in especially difficult circumstances has received special attention in several ways since the World Summit for Children. The World Summit's request that periods of tranquillity and special relief corridors be observed for the benefit of children where war and violence are still taking place has been on the negotiating agenda in Angola, Ethiopia, Iraq, Somalia, the Sudan and Yugoslavia, and has been heeded in a number of these cases. In November 1991, the Conference on Humanitarian Ceasefires: Peace-building for Children was held at Ottawa, bringing together representatives of peace and relief organizations from many countries, as well as experts with long experience in negotiations and operations, to provide assistance to children caught in war situations. The emphasis of the World

Summit on protection of children during armed conflicts provided the impetus for the first ever Summit on Humanitarian Issues in the Horn of Africa in April 1992. Regional and global networks of non-governmental organizations have greatly increased their actions on behalf of working and street children and have begun to focus on problems that previously received less attention, such as child prostitution and exploitation in domestic work, particularly affecting girls. The ILO has developed a major new programme on child labour, including establishment of a new task force and inter-agency consultative group. UNESCO and UNICEF have also become active partners in addressing the educational needs of working and street children.

G. Urban children

57. The rapid growth of urban populations in developing countries, accompanied by an escalation in slums and shanty towns, has highlighted the need for increased attention to the special needs of urban children. An initiative first launched among the mayors of Italy led to International Colloquium of Mayors as Defenders of Children, held at Dakar in January 1992. As a result of this Colloquium, mayors all over the world are being called upon to commit themselves to achieving the World Summit goals for children in their municipalities. Several municipalities are preparing their own programmes of action for children. Children's committees have been set up in each municipal council of Tunisia. Mexico City demonstrated its commitment to the World Summit by moving swiftly to assure Universal Child Immunization among its vast population.

H. Women and girl children

58. The World Summit for Children made a firm promise to women and girl children which must be kept in this decade. The Declaration enunciated a commitment to "work to strengthen the role and status of women". This was amplified in paragraph 15 of the Plan of Action. The Plan made the fundamental recognition that efforts for the enhancement of women's status and their role in development must begin with the girl child. Many NPAs are showing a new sensitivity to gender disparities, incorporating measures to obtain previously unavailable gender-specific data in their NPA monitoring systems and including special measures to reduce gender disparities in NPA programmes and projects.

IV. THE RESPONSE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

59. Most of the goals set at the World Summit for Children originated in the prior declarations of the World Health Assembly, the World Conference on Education for All, and in the policy statements of UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, FAO, ILO, the World Bank and others. The relevant specialized and funding agencies offered their ideas and shared their experiences in the preparation of the Summit Declaration. The result of this collaborative effort is amply reflected in the Declaration and the Plan of Action of the World Summit.

Representatives of many United Nations agencies participated in the Summit meeting itself, including the heads of UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, WHO and UNESCO, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation and, of course, the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

60. Since the World Summit for Children, the involvement of members of the United Nations family in implementing the Plan of Action has been substantial but uneven in two senses. Some agencies have shown greater commitment than others, and the participation of United Nations agencies in Summit follow-up activities has been stronger in some countries than in others. In certain instances there has been a tendency for both Government and United Nations agencies to treat the Summit as essentially a UNICEF concern and to look to UNICEF as the primary United Nations agency responsible for Summit follow-up. UNICEF, while playing its part, has had to dispel this notion on numerous occasions.

61. In this respect, it should be emphasized most strongly that the goals and strategies of the World Summit for Children are closely aligned with the recent growing consensus in the international community on the importance of human development as reflected in the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade. The Summit goals, in fact, emerged directly from the debate and decisions within the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and deliberations in the governing bodies of relevant United Nations agencies. These goals and strategies also reflect, in very specific, measurable terms, the priorities expressed in the Human Development Report of UNDP and the World Development Report of the World Bank for 1990 and 1991, which have identified poverty alleviation and investment in people as key strategies for socio-economic development.

62. The Declaration and Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children recognized the important role of the United Nations system and specifically requested its full cooperation and collaboration in ensuring the achievement of the goals and objectives of the World Summit. General Assembly resolution 45/217, which was summarized in the introduction to the present report, responded to this request.

63. In addition to the Secretary-General's letter to all United Nations agencies, mentioned earlier, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation also wrote to all United Nations Resident Coordinators asking them to convene meetings of all representatives of the various United Nations agencies in each country and review together how best the agencies can assist, both collectively and individually, the Government in its efforts to implement the goals and objectives of the World Summit. Reports from field offices indicate that such consultations have taken place in many developing countries.

64. Inter-agency collaboration to support the implementation of the commitments of the World Summit for Children has been a subject of consultations among heads of agencies and at the technical level in the

Administrative Committee on Coordination, its subcommittees and task forces, CCSQ (OPS), as well as in the Joint Consultative Group on Policy and its various sub-groups.

A. World Health Organization

65. Because so many of the goals of the World Summit for Children had already been adopted by the World Health Assembly (WHA) within the context of "Health for All by the Year 2000", that organization has been in the forefront of follow-up activities as they affect the health sector. In May 1991, WHA adopted a resolution on "World Summit for Children: follow-up action", which welcomed and fully supported the Declaration and the Plan of Action and recognized that attainment of the Summit goals for children and development in the 1990s was essential for reaching the overall goals of health for all by the year 2000. The resolution (WHA 44.33) invited WHO member States to give the political and economic priority necessary to implement the commitments set out in the Declaration and Plan of Action, and requested the Director-General of WHO, in cooperation with UNICEF and others concerned, to implement the actions outlined in his report and to monitor achievements in child health in all countries. WHO and UNICEF are coordinating Summit follow-up activities at numerous secretariat levels, and also at the level of their governing bodies, through the mechanism of the Joint Committee on Health Policy.

B. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

66. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) welcomed the World Summit for Children as it further reinforced the drive towards accelerating basic education spurred by the Jomtien World Conference on Education for All. Extensive consultations have taken place among UNESCO, UNDP, UNICEF and the World Bank, the four co-sponsors of the Jomtien Conference, on operationalizing a strategy for promoting basic education and literacy as well as for mobilizing the necessary organizational and financial resources for such effort. Cooperation between the governing bodies of UNICEF and UNESCO on Summit follow-up is institutionalized through the mechanism of the Joint Committee on Education. A joint UNESCO/UNICEF initiative to focus on the nine largest developing countries, where 75 per cent of the world's illiterate population live, is being launched, with other agencies invited to participate. UNESCO and UNICEF are also working together in devising a good monitoring system for primary education and literacy, including indicators to register drop-outs, repetition and gender disparities in school attendance.

C. United Nations Population Fund

67. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) also attaches considerable importance to the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the World Summit for Children, whose goals are complementary to and supportive of those of the

Amsterdam Declaration on Population and Family Planning. Given UNFPA's focus on maternal and child health and family planning, most of the provisions of the World Summit Plan of Action are of direct relevance to UNFPA. The four major multilateral organizations involved in the field of maternal and child health - WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP - have agreed on joint goals reflecting the Summit objectives and have issued joint guidelines to their field offices for enhancing their collaboration. UNFPA and UNICEF have indicated ways in which each will be responding to the Summit in areas related to family planning in a report presented to the UNICEF Executive Board (E/ICEF/1992/L.13).

D. United Nations Development Programme

68. In many countries, UNDP has played an active role in organizing inter-agency support to Governments in formulating national programmes of action and other supportive sectoral programmes aimed at achieving the goals and strategies of the World Summit for Children. UNDP, UNICEF and the United Nations Office at Vienna have fielded a number of joint missions to advise and assist Governments in formulating human development strategies and plans. As the human development initiative of UNDP and the goals and strategies of the World Summit are broadly synergistic, these missions have been helpful to countries in formulating their NPAs. For example, the NPAs of Pakistan and Ghana are a collaborative product of the UNDP Human Development Initiative, UNICEF's country programme support and the World Bank's Social Action Programmes. Similarly, the NPAs in the five countries of Central America, Panama and Belize were prepared with extensive assistance from UNDP, UNICEF and other United Nations agencies. This inter-agency collaboration has resulted in more broadly focused NPAs incorporating the World Summit goals with strategies for human development and reduction of poverty espoused by UNDP in the region. The support of UNDP to the Children's Vaccine Initiative is also a direct response to the World Summit.

E. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

69. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has long been committed to the principles enshrined at the World Summit for Children. They form the basis of the policies and programmes of UNHCR to assist, protect and promote the development needs of refugee children. The UNHCR Working Group on Refugee Children, organized a major consultation at Malawi in March 1991 to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of its guidelines for assisting young refugees. Other regional consultations are planned and a Coordinator for Refugee Children is to be appointed to enhance coordination of services, in close cooperation with the Senior Coordinator for Refugee Women.

F. International Labour Organisation

70. The International Labour Organisation (ILO), with financial support from the Government of Germany, has launched an "International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour" as a direct follow-up to the Summit. This programme will provide intensive promotion and support for actions to combat child labour at the community, national, regional and international levels. ILO and UNICEF co-sponsored a high-level workshop at Santiago, Chile, in September 1991, on monitoring poverty indicators - a complementary part of the process of monitoring progress towards reaching Summit goals.

G. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

71. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has committed itself to take the World Summit Declaration and Plan of Action into account in formulating the organization's medium-term plan. The December 1992 International Conference on Nutrition, being convened by FAO and WHO, with preparatory collaboration from UNICEF and other members of the ACC Subcommittee on Nutrition, is expected to give a major impetus to the pursuit of the nutrition-related goals of the World Summit.

H. World Food Programme

72. The World Food Programme's actions in emergencies as well as in development programmes are directly supportive of the objectives and goals set forth by the World Summit for Children. Echoing the sentiments expressed at the World Summit, the World Food Council has proposed an international agreement on the safe passage of emergency food aid to people affected by civil strife, war and natural disasters.

I. International Fund for Agricultural Development

73. Programmes supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) aim at empowering poor rural women as a specific target group. The activities of IFAD contribute to the improvement of the economic position of small farmers, especially women, whose empowerment is essential for reaching the goals of the World Summit for Children. In February 1992, IFAD helped organize a Summit meeting of First Ladies on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women. This Summit was seen as complementary to and supportive of the World Summit for Children.

J. Regional commissions

74. The regional commissions of the United Nations have been responsive to the World Summit for Children in various ways. For example, ESCAP is considering the establishment of a special programme that would, among other things,

monitor the social condition of children in the region for appropriate action by Governments and other institutions in the region. It is also considering a programme that would promote and develop specialized services to meet the needs of disabled/orphaned children and those living in refugee areas. ECLAC is closely associated with UNICEF and other United Nations agencies in supporting national statistical institutions to help develop the necessary household surveys and monitoring mechanisms for follow-up to the World Summit. A meeting on this subject was held at Santiago, Chile, in March 1992.

K. World Bank and the International Monetary Fund

75. The World Bank's lending for education and health has already increased substantially, with an increasing shift within these sectors to primary health care and primary education. It is expected that Governments will present aspects of their national programmes of action for children at some of the forthcoming consultative group meetings of donors to be held under World Bank auspices. The Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in a letter to the Secretary-General has committed the institutions's help in assisting "national authorities in identifying areas in which expenditure can be cut, revenue increased, or productivity raised in order to free additional resources to be devoted to activities to help alleviate the goals of the World Summit for Children and other critical social objectives".

76. With many countries undertaking programmes of structural adjustment, the policy framework papers (PFPs) setting out the broad goals for such programmes become an important policy influence. Both the World Bank and the IMF have agreed that PFPs should include reference to social goals and to measures to protect vulnerable groups in the course of adjustment. A next step, in all countries which choose to participate, is to include reference to some of the main human and social goals of the World Summit for Children, in order to ensure that steady progress is maintained towards these long-term objectives.

L. United Nations Children's Fund

77. In its decision 1991/10, UNICEF's Executive Board requested the Executive Director "to ensure that UNICEF, working under the leadership of the Secretary-General and guided by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation and in cooperation with other relevant United Nations agencies, as an integrated part of its regular activities, provides full support to developing countries within its mandate, comparative advantage and resources, for the achievement of objectives contained in the Declaration and the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit for Children". UNICEF support to developing countries in their follow-up of the World Summit for Children has been part of the country programme process that characterizes UNICEF's cooperation. Thus, the situation analyses of children and women, which UNICEF assists Governments to prepare, have often served as useful background material for the preparation of the national programme of action. The NPAs in turn provide the larger national framework within which UNICEF

programmes of cooperation are situated. UNICEF cooperation in monitoring and evaluation as part of the country programme is a useful foundation on which Governments are building a system of database for monitoring progress towards the achievement of NPA goals. UNICEF has been working with relevant sister United Nations agencies to develop joint approaches to monitoring progress towards achievement of the World Summit goals, as detailed in paragraphs 29 to 31 above, and UNDP and UNICEF are working with the DAC of OECD, as discussed in paragraphs 27 and 28 above.

78. It can be seen from the above that the United Nations system has responded to the World Summit for Children in a variety of ways and in many parts of the world. Of course, there is more that needs to be done, in supporting the preparation and refinement of NPAs where these have still not been finalized, in supporting their implementation wherever they have, and, for those agencies which have not done so, in preparing their own plans and programmes as called for by paragraph 35 (iii) of the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children.

79. Donor countries have been strong in urging greater inter-agency collaboration in World Summit follow-up. As one of the initiating countries for the World Summit for Children, Canada has been active in this regard. Even before the Summit, the Canadian Prime Minister wrote to the Heads of the World Bank, the regional development banks, UNDP and other agencies urging these institutions actively to support the follow-up of the World Summit. The NPAs of both Finland and Sweden emphasize that to achieve the goals set by the Summit measures are needed throughout the United Nations system and that the targets of the different agencies should be coordinated.

V. ACTIONS BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

80. The World Summit for Children was regarded as a landmark event by humanitarian and developmental non-governmental organizations in that their contribution to national development was recognized at the highest political level, in many cases for the first time. Those working in child-related areas particularly welcomed the invitation extended to them in the Summit Declaration to cooperate actively with Governments in formulating and implementing national plans of action to reach the Summit goals. In some 70 countries, this has resulted in close consultations between Governments and non-governmental organizations in the development of national programmes of actions. In addition, a large number of non-governmental organizations working in child-related areas have taken Summit follow-up actions within the framework of their own respective mandates. While some have prepared specific programmes of action to implement/support the goals endorsed by the World Summit for Children, others have reviewed or restructured existing programmes to bring them in line with these goals.

81. Through various workshops, seminars and other appropriate forums, a number of international non-governmental organizations have worked to mobilize the community to contribute to meeting the Summit goals and/or to the signing,

ratification, implementation and monitoring of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in their respective countries. Others have undertaken awareness campaigns through school systems to inform children on their rights and the commitments made by their leaders at the Summit to bring about a better world.

82. Some non-governmental organizations, through advocacy, regular contacts at ministerial level, active lobbying or testimony at government hearings, are able to focus attention on the plight of vulnerable children, often resulting in improved legislation being passed or increased funding for children both within a country and through overseas development aid. Examples of some of these non-governmental organizations are Rotary International, La Leche League, Save the Children Alliance, Catholic Relief Services and Child Hope.

83. Non-governmental organizations have sought innovative approaches to follow-up on the World Summit for Children. For example, the Programme for Appropriate Technology in Health has pioneered an inexpensive and safe delivery kit for sale to families of pregnant women in Bangladesh to reduce infant and maternal mortality. The World Scout Bureau has instituted a "Youth Forum" which, in the spirit of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, enables young people to be involved in the decision-making processes of the Scout Movement. The "Voice of the Children", a campaign first developed in Norway and now sponsored by a variety of non-governmental organizations in some 35 countries, aims to give children the means to be heard through local and national hearings by those who make decisions which affect their lives. The non-governmental organization group Results has spearheaded a "Keeping the Promise" campaign in many countries and communities. It has influenced important legislative action in support of the Summit goals in Canada, the United States of America and several other countries. The World Alliance for Breast-feeding Action (WABA), a global network of non-governmental organizations and individuals, is working closely with UNICEF and WHO on their "Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative".

84. Non-governmental organizations have undertaken joint action at the international level as well. In October 1991, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies organized at Geneva a World Summit for Children follow-up meeting of Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), representing some 33 major humanitarian and development non-governmental organizations to review progress to-date and the steps those organizations should take to help maintain the momentum of the Summit.

VI. NEXT STEPS

85. The follow-up to the World Summit for Children has been substantial and widespread, as the present report has demonstrated. As a set of low-cost, practical and feasible actions to alleviate the worst manifestations of poverty, the goals and strategies adopted by the World Summit provide the world with an agreed agenda to rally around as nations and peoples endeavour to identify priorities for development in the post-cold war era. The relevance and broad public appeal of this agenda at this historic juncture have also been conducive to a vigorous follow-up.

86. Nevertheless, a great deal remains to be done. The goals adopted by the World Summit for Children are still a long way from achievement. A serious start towards their realization has been made by many countries. Next steps include the following:

(a) Countries that have not taken any action toward, or are lagging in, the preparation of NPAs should be reminded of the solemn commitment they undertook by signing the Declaration and the Plan of Action;

(b) NPAs which are in draft or outline form, or in some other way lack what is necessary for them to become operational, should be finalized and moved to the implementation stage;

(c) Weaker aspects of some NPAs, in areas such as costing and monitoring, need to be strengthened;

(d) In some countries, which have long-term and medium-term development plans and NPAs have not been integrated into this planning process, this should be done;

(e) The commitment made by donor countries to reexamine their development assistance budgets in the light of the World Summit's goals is still to be demonstrated in the form of major shifts in development assistance towards what the Human Development Report calls "human priorities";

(f) United Nations agencies and international financial institutions, which have not done so, should report their plans and programmes for World Summit follow-up to their respective governing bodies, in accordance with paragraph 35 (i) of the Plan of Action of the World Summit. To date only WHO and UNESCO have complied with this provision. It is important also for these agencies to provide support at the country level for the implementation of NPAs.

87. The Secretary-General of the United Nations was requested by the World Summit for Children to arrange for a mid-decade review, at all appropriate levels, of the progress being made towards implementing the commitments of the Declaration and Plan of Action. Such a review will have to present not just plans and programmes but also the first results of the Summit's pledges in terms of a better life for children. This will require that monitoring systems be in place, that data be available to measure the condition of the world's children at mid-decade and that appropriate 1990 baseline data be available in order to evaluate the extent to which the condition of children has improved and whether or not progress towards each of the goals is on target. A great and concrete challenge is thereby traced for the coming three years not only to make serious and perceptible progress towards the decade goals for children but also to develop the capacities necessary to measure such progress. The results of such efforts could contribute substantially to the preparation of the proposed World Summit for Social Development. It has been suggested that this might be an appropriate forum for the mid-decade review of progress in implementing the commitments of the World Summit for Children.

88. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) is another test of the world's commitment to the welfare of its children, who will inherit the responsibility of looking after the earth. The draft text of Agenda 21 (A/CONF.151/PC/L.72) calls on national Governments to implement programmes for children designed to reach the child-related goals of the 1990s in the areas of environment and development, especially health, nutrition, education, literacy and poverty alleviation, in accordance with the goals endorsed by the World Summit for Children. The very specific follow-up mechanisms designed to assure implementation of the UNCED agenda will provide specific national and international mechanisms for follow-up to the World Summit as well.

89. Nowhere is the need for the World Summit's pledges to become a reality more necessary than in Africa, precisely that region of the world where the resources and skills to achieve the goals and even to prepare the plans and programmes for their realization are in shortest supply. A crucial test of the commitment of both developing and industrialized countries to World Summit follow-up will occur when the OAU Conference on Assistance to the African Child convenes at Dakar, Senegal, in November 1992. Developing countries of Africa will have the opportunity to present NPAs with realistic goals, well-conceived strategies, responsible budget restructuring, appropriate cost analyses and adequate monitoring mechanisms. Donor countries will have the opportunity to manifest in concrete form how they propose to shift their cooperation priorities towards primary health care, low cost water and sanitation and basic education. The participation of many donors, as well as of agencies, such as the World Bank and the European Community, will be crucial. A successful outcome of this conference will demonstrate that the World Summit's promise has indeed not been forgotten, and that it has helped the world, both developed and developing countries, to focus more clearly on priority human needs in accordance with the principle of a First Call for Children.

Notes

1/ A/45/625, annex.

2/ Ibid., para. 34 (iii).

ANNEX I

General Assembly resolution 45/217 on the World Summit for Children

"The General Assembly,

"Welcoming the adoption by the World Summit for Children, on 30 September 1990, of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s, a/

"1. Urges all States and other members of the international community to work for the achievement of the goals and objectives endorsed in the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s, as an integral part of their national plans and international cooperation;

"2. Urges especially the donor countries to assist developing countries in achieving the goals set out in the World Declaration and the Plan of Action by increasing their contributions to development cooperation targeted for the special needs of children;

"3. Urges all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to take into account the goals, strategies and recommendations of the World Declaration and the Plan of Action in carrying out their programmes, and invites the relevant governing bodies to consider specific measures, within their fields of competence, to address the special needs of children in the light of the World Declaration and the Plan of Action;

"4. Calls upon the United Nations system to ensure appropriate dissemination of the World Declaration and the Plan of Action;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate action to ensure the implementation and monitoring by the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system of the provisions of the present resolution;

"6. Takes note of the provisions in the Plan of Action for appropriate mechanisms in the United Nations system to monitor its implementation;

"7. Decides to consider at its forty-seventh session the question of the implementation of the World Declaration and the Plan of Action, in particular the response of the United Nations system;

"a/ A/45/625, annex."

"8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions of 1992, on the implementation of the present resolution.

ANNEX II

Status of signature of the Declaration of the World Summit for Children and ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
(as at 10 June 1992)

SIGNED 137

** Albania
Antigua and Barbuda*
** Argentina
** Australia*
Austria*
** Bangladesh
** Barbados
** Belarus
** Belgium
** Belize*
** Benin*
** Bhutan*
** Bolivia*
** Brazil
** Bulgaria
** Burkina Faso*
** Burundi*
Cameroon*
** Canada
Cape Verde*
** Central African Republic
** Chad*
** Chile
** China*
** Colombia
Comoros*
Congo*
** Costa Rica
** Côte d'Ivoire*
** Cuba*
** Czechoslovakia
** Democratic People's Republic of Korea*
** Denmark
** Djibouti
** Dominica
** Dominican Republic*
** Ecuador*
** Egypt*
** El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea*
** Finland
** France
Gabon*
** Gambia
** Germany
** Ghana*
** Grenada*
** Guatemala*
** Guinea*
** Guinea-Bissau
** Guyana*
** Holy See
** Honduras
** Hungary*
Iceland
India*
** Indonesia*
Iran (Islamic Republic of)*
Ireland
** Israel*
** Italy
** Jamaica*
Japan
** Jordan*
** Kenya*
** Kuwait
** Lao People's Democratic Republic*
** Lebanon
** Lesotho*
Liechtenstein
Luxembourg
** Madagascar*
** Malawi*
Malaysia*
** Maldives
** Mali
** Mauritania*
** Mauritius*
** Mexico
Monaco
** Mongolia*
Morocco*
Mozambique
** Namibia
** Nepal*
Netherlands*
New Zealand*
** Nicaragua
** Niger*
** Nigeria
** Norway
** Pakistan*
** Panama
Papua New Guinea
** Paraguay*
** Peru
** Philippines*
** Poland
** Portugal*
** Republic of Korea*
** Romania
** Russia*
** Rwanda
** Sao Tome and Principe*
** Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines*
Samoa
** Senegal
** Sierra Leone
Solomon Islands*
** Spain
** Sri Lanka*
** Sudan
Suriname
Swaziland
** Sweden
Switzerland*
** Thailand*
** Togo*
** Trinidad and Tobago*
** Tunisia
Turkey
** Uganda
** Ukraine
** United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
** United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
** Uruguay
Vanuatu
** Venezuela
** Viet Nam*
** Yemen*
** Yugoslavia
** Zaire
** Zambia*
** Zimbabwe

INITIALED 23

Afghanistan
Algeria
** Angola
** Bahamas
** Bahrain
Botswana
** Cyprus
** Ethiopia
Greece
Haiti
Iraq
Liberia
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
** Malta
** Myanmar
Qatar
** San Marino
Saudi Arabia
** Seychelles
Singapore
Somalia
Syrian Arab Republic
United Arab Emirates

NOT SIGNED 19

Armenia
Azerbaijan
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia
Croatia
** Estonia
Federated States of Micronesia
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
** Latvia
** Lithuania
Marshall Islands
Moldova
Oman
Slovenia
Tajikistan
Turkmenistan
Uzbekistan

* Signed after the Summit.
** Countries that have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (117).

ANNEX III

Status of National Programmes of Action
(as at 10 June 1992)

Sub-Saharan Africa *26 **11 ***4	Latin America and the Caribbean *7 **5 ***16	Asia *9 **7 ***11	Middle East and North Africa *10 **3 ***5	Industrialized countries (continued)
* Angola	Antigua and Barbuda	Afghanistan	* Algeria	Greece
* Benin	** Argentina	*** Bangladesh	* Bahrain	*** Holy See
* Botswana	Bahamas	** Bhutan	*** Djibouti	Hungary
** Burkina Faso	* Barbados	Brunei Darussalam	* Egypt	Iceland
** Burundi	*** Belize	Cambodia	*** Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Ireland
* Cameroon	** Bolivia	*** China	Iraq	Israel
* Cape Verde	** Brazil	* Cook Islands	** Jordan	* Italy
*** Central African Republic	** Chile	** Democratic People's Republic of Korea	* Kuwait	*** Japan
** Chad	*** Colombia	** Fiji	* Lebanon	Kazakhstan
* Comoros	*** Costa Rica	** India	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Kyrgyzstan
* Congo	*** Cuba	*** Indonesia	*** Morocco	Latvia
* Côte d'Ivoire	Dominica	* Kiribati	* Oman	Liechtenstein
* Ethiopia	*** Dominican Republic	Lao People's Democratic Republic	* Qatar	Lithuania
* Equatorial Guinea	*** Ecuador	** Malaysia	* Saudi Arabia	Luxembourg
Gabon	*** El Salvador	** Maldives	*** Sudan	Malta
** Gambia	Grenada	*** Marshall Islands	* Syrian Arab Republic	Moldova
** Ghana	*** Guatemala	* Micronesia	*** Tunisia	Monaco
** Guinea	* Guyana	* Mongolia	** Turkey	** Netherlands
* Guinea-Bissau	Haiti	* Myanmar	* United Arab Emirates	* New Zealand
** Kenya	*** Honduras	*** Nepal	** Yemen	* Norway
* Lesotho	*** Jamaica	*** Pakistan		Poland
Liberia	*** Mexico	* Papua New Guinea	INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES *8 **2 ***9	* Portugal
* Madagascar	*** Nicaragua	*** Philippines		Romania
* Malawi	*** Panama	*** Republic of Korea		Russia
*** Mali	*** Paraguay	Samoa		San Marino
* Mauritania	*** Peru	*** Singapore		Slovenia
* Mauritius	* Saint Kitts and Nevis	* Solomon Islands		* Spain
** Mozambique	* Saint Lucia	*** Sri Lanka		*** Sweden
* Niger	* Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	** Thailand		Switzerland
* Nigeria	* Suriname	* Tuvalu		Tajikistan
*** Namibia	* Trinidad and Tobago	* Vanuatu		Turkmenistan
** Rwanda	** Uruguay	*** Viet Nam		Ukraine
* Sao Tome and Principe	*** Venezuela			*** United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
*** Senegal				* United States of America
* Seychelles				Uzbekistan
* Sierra Leone				Yugoslavia
Somalia				
South Africa				
* Swaziland				
* Togo				
** Uganda				
* United Republic of Tanzania				
* Zaire				
* Zambia				
** Zimbabwe				

* Preparation underway (60).
** Draft/outline received (28).
*** NPA finalized (45).
Total: countries preparing NPAs (133).

ANNEX IV

Goals for children and development in the 1990s

The following goals, endorsed by the World Summit for Children in 1990, were formulated through extensive consultation in various international forums attended by virtually all Governments, the relevant United Nations agencies, including WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNDP and IBRD, and a large number of non-governmental organizations. These goals are recommended for implementation by all countries where they are applicable, with appropriate adaptation to the specific situation of each country in terms of phasing, standards, priorities and availability of resources, with respect for cultural, religious and social traditions. Additional goals that are particularly relevant to a country's specific situation should be added in its national plan of action. Achievement of these goals is essential to the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is the ultimate objective of programmes for children and development.

I. MAJOR GOALS FOR CHILD SURVIVAL, DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION

1. Between 1990 and the year 2000, reduction of infant and child under-five mortality rate by one third, or to 50 and 70 per 1,000 live births, respectively, whichever is less.

2. Between 1990 and the year 2000, reduction of maternal mortality rate by half.

3. Between 1990 and the year 2000, reduction of severe and moderate malnutrition among children under-five by half.

4. Universal access to safe drinking water and to sanitary means of excreta disposal.

5. By the year 2000, universal access to basic education and completion of primary education by at least 80 per cent of primary school age children.

6. Reduction of the adult illiteracy rate (the appropriate age group to be determined in each country) to at least half its 1990 level with emphasis on female literacy.

7. Improved protection of children in especially difficult circumstances.

II. SUPPORTING/SECTORAL GOALS

A. Women's health and education

1. Special attention to the health and nutrition of the female child, and pregnant and lactating women.

2. Access by all couples to information and services to prevent pregnancies which are too early, too closely spaced, too late or too many.

3. Access by all pregnant women to prenatal care, trained attendants during child birth and referral facilities for high risk pregnancies and obstetric emergencies.

4. Universal access to primary education with special emphasis for girls, and accelerated literacy programmes for women.

B. Nutrition

1. Reduction in severe as well as moderate malnutrition among under-five children by half of 1990 levels.

2. Reduction of the rate of low birth weight (less than 2.5 kg) to less than 10 per cent.

3. Reduction of iron deficiency anaemia in women by one third of 1990 levels.

4. Virtual elimination of iodine deficiency disorders.

5. Virtual elimination of vitamin A deficiency and its consequences, including blindness.

6. Empowerment of all women to breast-feed exclusively their child for four to six months and to continue breast-feeding with complementary food well into the second year.

7. Growth promotion and its regular monitoring to be institutionalized in all countries by the end of the 1990s.

8. Dissemination of knowledge and supporting services to increase food production to ensure household food security.

C. Child health

1. Global eradication of poliomyelitis by the year 2000.

2. Elimination of neonatal tetanus by 1995.

3. Reduction by 95 per cent in measles deaths and reduction by 90 per cent of measles cases compared to pre-immunization levels by 1995, as a major step to the global eradication of measles in the longer run.

4. Maintenance of a high level of immunization coverage (at least 90 per cent of children under one year of age by the year 2000) against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis and against tetanus for women of child-bearing age.

5. Reduction by 50 per cent in the deaths due to diarrhoea in children under the age of five years; and 25 per cent reduction in the diarrhoea incidence rate.

6. Reduction by one third in the deaths due to acute respiratory infections in children under five years.

D. Water and sanitation

1. Universal access to safe drinking water.

2. Universal access to sanitary means of excreta disposal.

3. Elimination of guinea-worm disease (dracunculiasis) by the year 2000.

E. Basic education

1. Expansion of early childhood development activities, including appropriate low-cost family and community based interventions.

2. Universal access to basic education, and achievement of primary education by at least 80 per cent of primary school-age children through formal schooling or non-formal education of comparable learning standard, with emphasis on reducing the current disparities between boys and girls.

3. Reduction of the adult illiteracy rate (the appropriate age group to be determined in each country) to at least half its 1990 level, with emphasis on female literacy.

4. Increased acquisition by individuals and families of the knowledge, skills and values required for better living, made available through all educational channels, including the mass media, other forms of modern and traditional communication, and social action, with effectiveness measured in terms of behavioural change.

F. Children in difficult circumstances

Provide improved protection of children in especially difficult circumstances and tackle the root causes leading to such situations.